

STARBLAZER

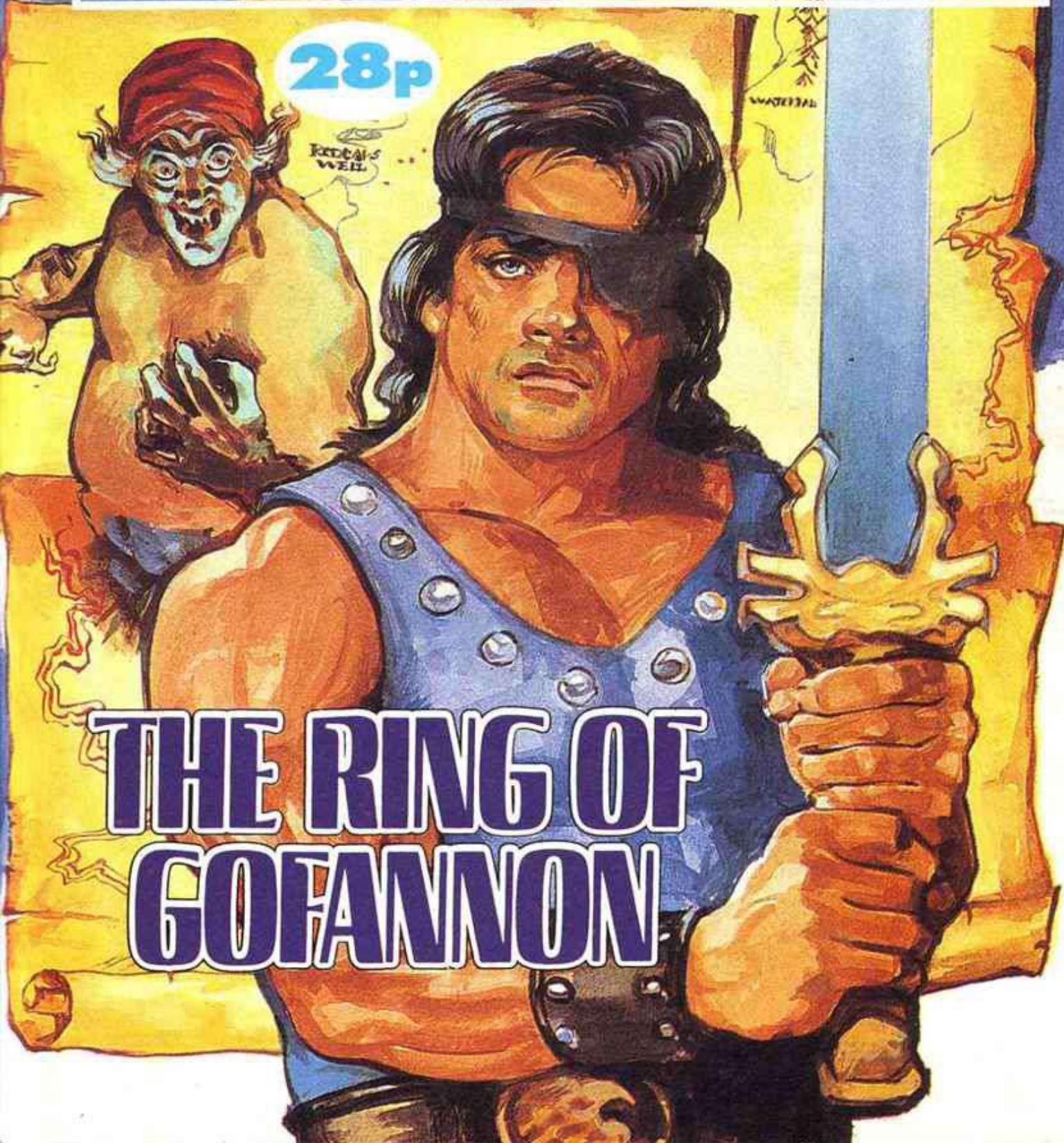
FANTASY FICTION IN PICTURES No. 209

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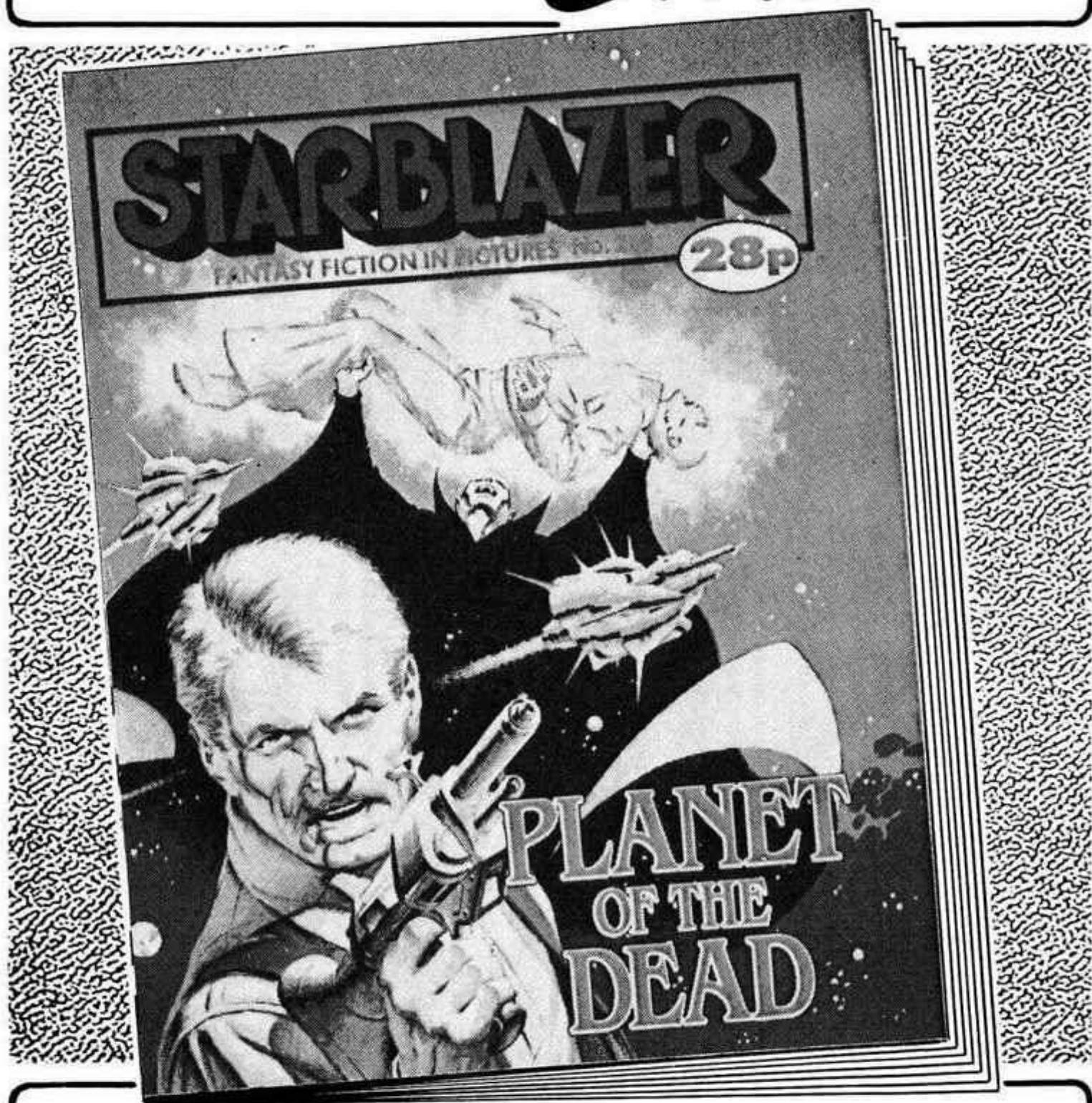
KIDGAL'S
WELL

WATERFALL

THE RING OF GOFANNON



**DON'T FORGET THIS
MONTH'S *OTHER***



On sale at your newsagent's *NOW!*

THE RING OF ELDAMNION

IT WAS THE EVE OF BELTANE IN THE LAND OF TIR TARNAGIR — A NIGHT WHEN THE SPIRITS OF THE INVISIBLE KINGDOM WERE FREE TO WALK THE WORLD OF MEN. A NIGHT WHEN MOST PEOPLE LOCKED THEIR DOORS AGAINST THE STORM, AND DID NOT STRAY FAR FROM HOME ... OR THE LOCAL TAVERN.



A SONG! LET'S
HAVE A SONG!

4
BUT ONE MAN HAD STRAYED FAR—

HOW ABOUT 'THE GOOSE
AND THE GOBLIN'?

HEED ME, MEN OF
TIR TARNAGIR!



HA-HA-HA! LET'S HEAR IT FOR
'THE GOOSE AND THE
GOBLIN'! ...







WELL? ARE THE MEN OF
TARNAGIR ALL COWARDS?

NO! AND WE'RE NOT
STUPID EITHER! NO-
ONE'S EVER RETURNED
FROM SEARCHING FOR
THE RING OF
GOFANNON. IT
PROBABLY DOESN'T
EVEN EXIST!



FOOLS... DON'T YOU
KNOW THE DARK TIMES
ARE COMING AND THE RING
IS OUR ONLY PROTECTION
— WE MUST FIND IT.

I'LL DO IT!
I'M NOT AFRAID!

NO... BUT
YOU'RE STUPID!



HMMM! YOU'RE A
BIT THIN BUT AT
LEAST YOU HAVE
SPIRIT. YOU'LL
HAVE TO DO.

I'LL JUST GO AND TELL
MY MASTER I'M LEAVING.



YOUR MASTER?

TELL ME WHAT, CUTTER? YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE!

THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG, MY FRIEND! THE BRAVE YOUNG WARRIOR HAS PLEDGED HIMSELF TO MY QUEST.

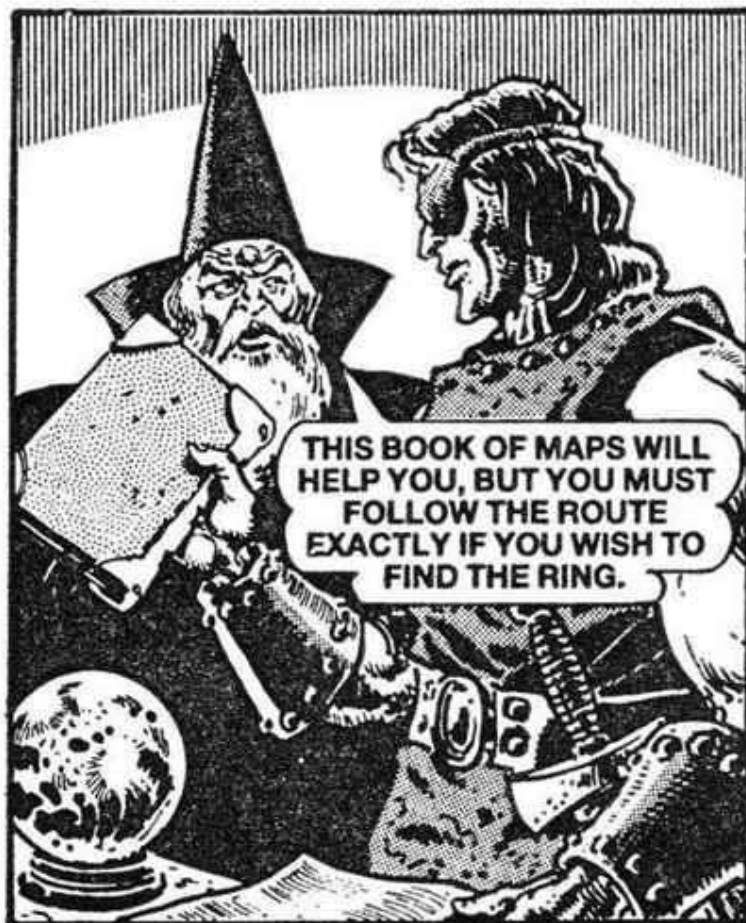
BRAVE AS A NEWT! HE'S MY SERVANT! AND I'M NOT YOUR FRIEND. MY NAME IS GOLL, SON OF MORN!



AND SO ...



WELL, YOU'VE TALKED
US INTO THIS, WIZARD ...





YOUR JOURNEY WILL BE
PERILOUS, SON OF MORNA,
BUT YOU MUST NOT FAIL ME.



MAY THE GODS
GO WITH YOU!

IF THE GODS HAVE ANY
SENSE THEY'LL STAY AT
HOME ...




LATER ...




I'M SORRY I GOT YOU INTO THIS
MESS, GOLL. I DIDN'T KNOW
WHAT I WAS SAYING.

AYE ... STRONG DRINK AND YOUNG
LADS DON'T MIX ... NO MATTER, IT'S A
JOB. WHAT IS THIS PLACE ANYWAY?



ACCORDING TO THE FIRST MAP,
THIS IS WISHWOOD. I JUST WISH I
WAS SOMEWHERE ELSE!

SHH! LOOK!
THOSE LIGHTS!



LIGHTS? WHERE ... I ...!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?





MAKE FOR
THE LIGHTS!



WE SHOULD BE SAFE
IN THIS ... WHAT THE ... ?

EH?



















SO THAT'S WHAT HE MEANT BY 'GOBLIN BOATS SAIL BEST BY NIGHT...' LIKE GOBLINS THEY DISAPPEAR AT DAYLIGHT.



I DON'T LIKE THE LOOK OF THIS PLACE. THE SHADOWS SEEM TO MOVE AND THE TREES ARE FULL OF STRANGE WHISPERS.



AT LEAST WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK. THERE'S OUR NEXT STOP UP AHEAD ...



REDCAP'S WELL!


HMM! LOOKS LIKE
MY UNCLE CORMAC.




I WONDER WHO
RECAP WAS?

WHY DON'T YOU
ASK HIM?





THE ONLY BLOOD SPILLED
HERE SHALL BE YOUR OWN!



AND THE RAVENS
SHALL THROW DICE
FOR YOUR FLESH!

RARRRR!



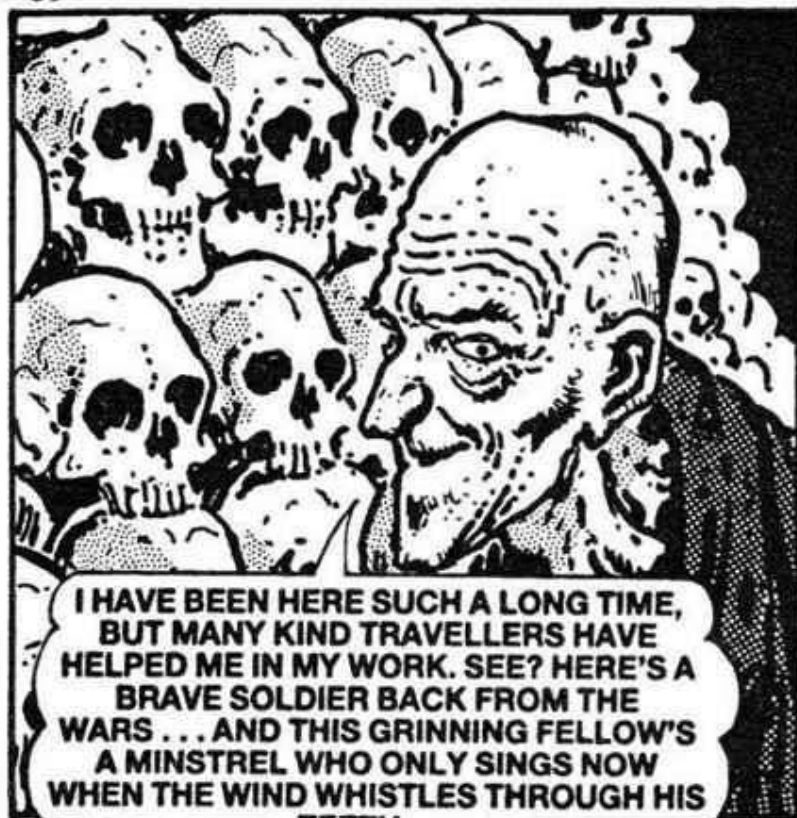
BOASTFUL
MORTAL!

BOASTFUL I
MAY BE ...









YOU'LL NOT RUN FAR!
HEE-HEE-HEE!



HEAD FOR
THE STONES!



GOLL DIVED FOR COVER—



BY THE DAGDA, I'LL RUN NO
FURTHER! LET THE HOUNDS
COME AND TASTE MY
STEEL!

BUT GOLL,
I...

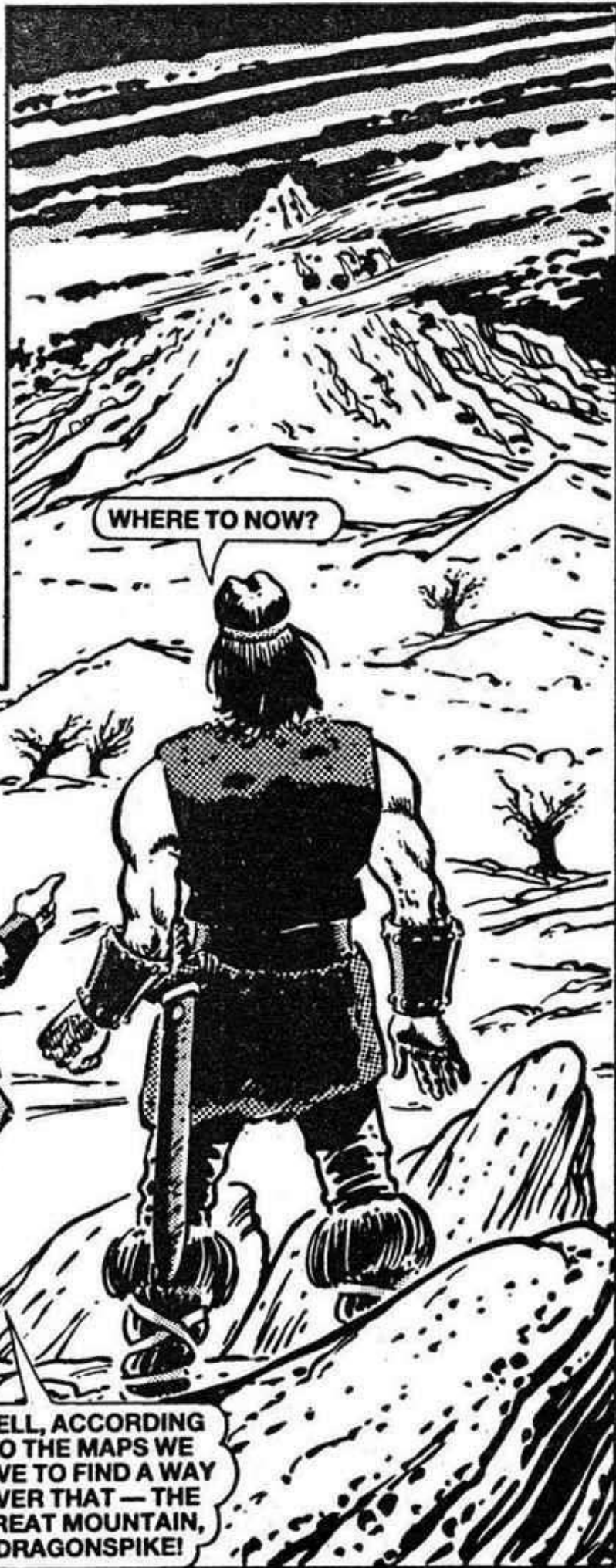
SILENCE BOY! I'LL STAND
AND FIGHT LIKE A WARRIOR!

... BUT ...









HIGHER AND HIGHER THEY CLIMBED —

TYR! IT'S COLDER THAN A WITCH'S SMILE! IS THE RING OF GOFANNON REALLY WORTH ALL THIS HARDSHIP?


THERE SHOULD BE A PATH SOMEWHERE.

WAIT! ARE MY EYES PLAYING TRICKS? I SEE GHOSTLY SHAPES!


AIR ELEMENTALS — SPIRITS OF THE AIR!

THEY'RE FORCING US AWAY FROM OUR PATH! TOWARDS THAT!

WHAT IS IT? A CAIRN?




NO, BOY, THIS IS NO CAIRN. IT
IS THE KING OF WINTER HIMSELF!



AYE! THE KING OF WINTER HIMSELF!
AT WHOSE SLIGHTEST BREATH THE
TREES SHED THEIR LEAVES AND THE
BIRDS FLY SOUTH, AND THE EARTH
LIES HARD AS IRON.



WHAT BUSINESS HAVE YOU
IN MY COLD KINGDOM,
LITTLE MEN?



WE SEEK THE LOST
RING OF GOFANNON,
MIGHTY KING AND WE
BRING THIS GIFT AS A
TOKEN OF OUR GOOD
FAITH.



IT IS A SUN DISC, CHARGED
WITH POWER AT THE
MIDSUMMER SOLSTICE.

I HAVE KNOWN ONLY THE
PALE, COLD SUN OF
DECEMBER, NEVER THE HEAT
OF THE GROWING SEASONS!
THIS WILL MAKE A FINE GIFT
TO WARM MY HANDS!



I GRANT YOU SAFE
PASSAGE THROUGH THIS
CHILL REALM! AND THOUGH
I KNOW NOTHING OF THE
RING YOU SEEK, I CAN
GUIDE YOU THROUGH
THESE MOUNTAINS.

THERE WAS BUT ONE WAY OPEN TO MORTAL MEN ... TO TRAVEL THROUGH THE ANCIENT MINES OF THE DUERGAR FOLK, INTO THE VERY BELLY OF DRAGONSPIKE!



AT LEAST HE DIDN'T TURN US INTO STATUES OF ICE, LIKE IN THE STORIES I'VE HEARD.





LOOK HERE! SOME SORT OF BLASTING POWDER!



THE MINERS MUST HAVE LEFT THIS. WHO WERE THESE DUERGAR FOLK WHO DELVED THE MINES?

DWARVES FROM THE NORTH COUNTRY. WHEN THEY FLED, THE MINES BECAME HOME TO EVIL CREATURES FROM THE DEEPS OF THE EARTH. RUMOUR ALSO HAS IT THAT THE DWARVES LEFT BEHIND A HORDE OF FABULOUS TREASURE.





WHY DO YOU FISH HERE IN
THE DARK PLACE, OLD
MAN?



MANY THINGS, RARE AND
STRANGE, COME THIS WAY, SON
OF MORNA. THERE I HAVE A
SALMON OF KNOWLEDGE WHICH I
CAUGHT HERE NOT TWO
HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

TELL ME, WARRIOR, IS IT HOT
ENOUGH TO EAT YET?



IT SEEMS
TO... OW!

IT BURNED
ME! I...









THERE'S ENOUGH GOLD HERE TO
BUY A KINGDOM! TWO
KINGDOMS!

SOMETHING ELSE HAS
JUST OCCURRED TO ME.



WHY DID THEY CALL THIS
MOUNTAIN DRAGONSPIKE?

GREETINGSSS!



TYR!

IT PLEASES ME TO MEET WITH MORTAL MEN ONCE MORE! MY WIT, YOU SEE, IS WASTED ON THESE BONES WHICH DECORATE MY FLOOR! MY NAME ISS WIRRM, THOUGH I NEED NOT KNOW YOUR NAMESS IN RETURN. ASSS LONG ASSS I CAN HAVE MY SSSPORT ...

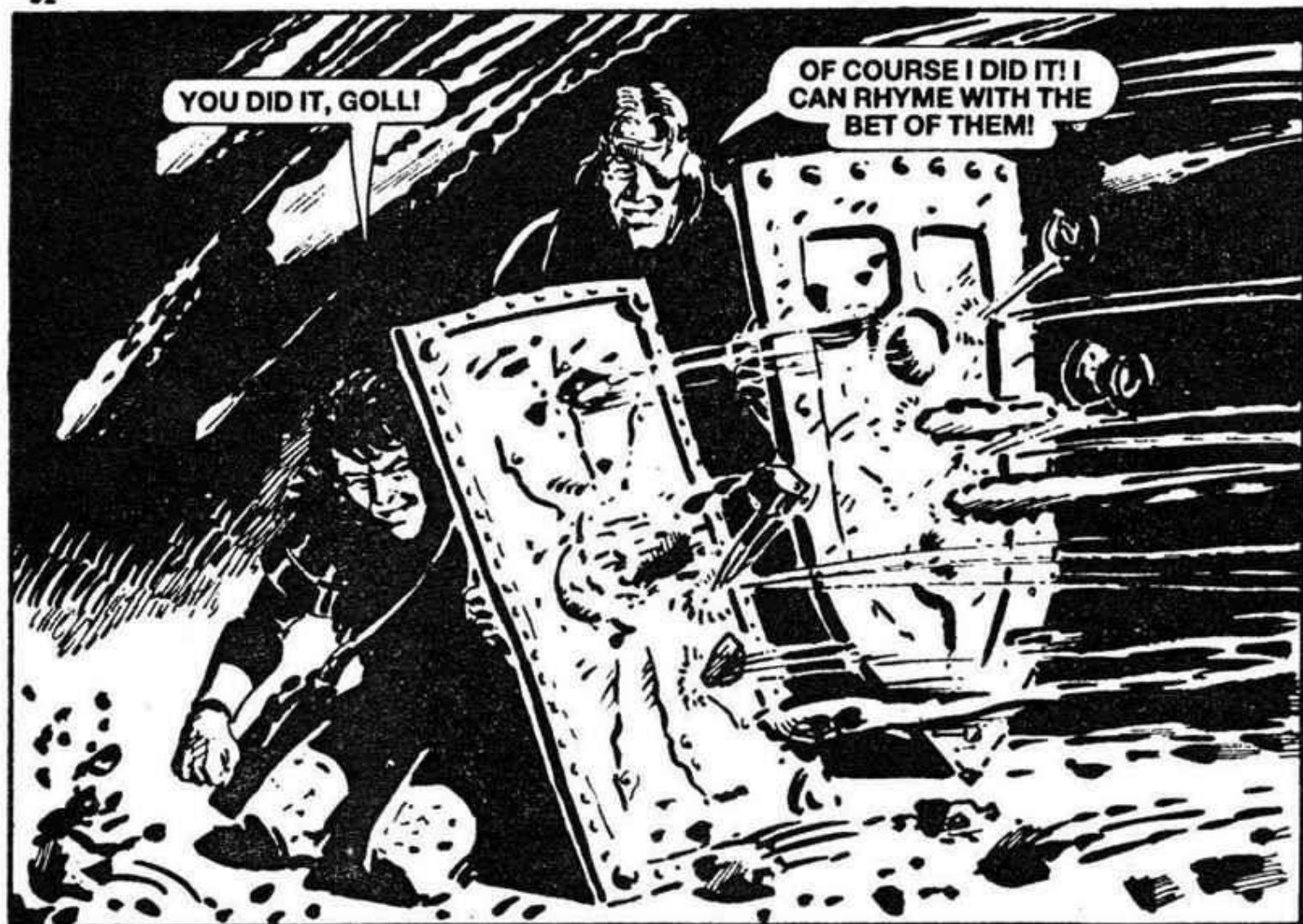


AND WATCH YOU ASSSS YOU BURN!









A FEW MINUTES LATER —



FOR ALL WE KNOW THE
RING OF GOFANNON COULD
BE SOMEWHERE IN HERE.

IT'S NOT! LET'S GET GOING,
BEFORE THE DRAGON'S
MOTHER TURNS UP.



WAIT! I HEAR SOMETHING BEHIND
US ... LIKE VOICES OR A RUSHING
WIND ...







SSSAFE YOU MAY BE IN THE FIERCE LIGHT OF MORNING, MORTALS, BUT WHEN DARKNESS FALLSS AND THE MOON RISESSS, WE WILL COME FOR YOU! WE WILL SMELL YOUR BLOOD AND WE WILL FIND YOU! NO PLACE ON EARTH IS SSSAFE!



AT LEAST WE DIDN'T LOSE ALL THE TREASURE. THIS MUST BE WHAT THEY WANT. I TOOK IT FROM THE DRAGON'S HORDE ALONG WITH ALL THE OTHER STUFF. MAYBE IF I GIVE IT BACK NOW ...

GIVE IT TO ME.



THE DAY PASSED, UNTIL AT LAST
DUSK BEGAN TO CREEP ACROSS
THE SKY ...

WE GOLL! WE DON'T HAVE MUCH
TIME! IT'LL BE DARK SOON!

TRUST ME, CUTTER.



YOU KNOW, THERE'S SOMETHING FAMILIAR ABOUT THIS PLACE. DO YOU EVER GET THAT FEELING? AS THOUGH YOU'VE BEEN SOMEWHERE BEFORE?

ONLY WHEN I HAVE BEEN SOMEWHERE BEFORE.



AND THAT DOOR! I RECOGNISE THAT DOOR!

THEN LET'S OPEN IT AND LEARN THE SECRET ...



... OF THE RING OF GOFANNON!



CATHBAD THE SORCEROR!

YOU HAVE DONE WELL, MY FRIENDS. YOU ARE THE FIRST TO COMPLETE THIS QUEST.

BUT THE RING? WHERE IS THE RING OF GOFANNON? I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

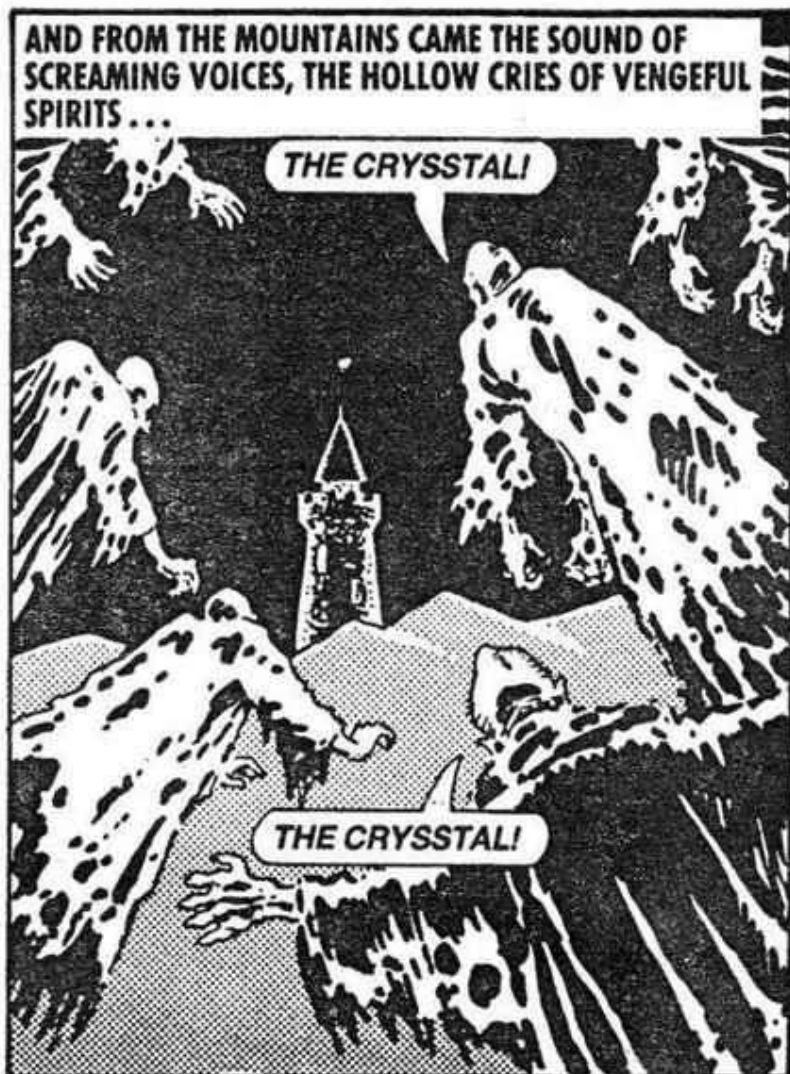
SLOW-WITTED SERVANT BOY! YOU DID NOT THINK TO JOIN YOUR MAPS TOGETHER.

SEE? HERE IS THE RING OF GOFANNON! A VAST CIRCLE LAID OUT ON THE EARTH! ONLY WHEN A BRAVE MAN TRAVELS THE ENTIRE DISTANCE, FACING EACH DANGER ON THE WAY, CAN THE MAGICAL ENERGIES OF THE RING BE RELEASED!

The Ring of Gofannon







AS THE HOST DESCENDED UPON CATHBAD'S
TOWER!





BUT WHY MUST IT END
HERE, OF ALL PLACES?

RAWHEAD! I HAVE
SOMETHING FOR YOU!

THE FINAL SKULL!

FREE!
I'M FREE!

I'M FREEEE ...


THAT LIGHT!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?



I'M FREE!

GOFANNON.

YES, I AM GOFANNON, ONCE MORE. THE CURSE IS LIFTED.

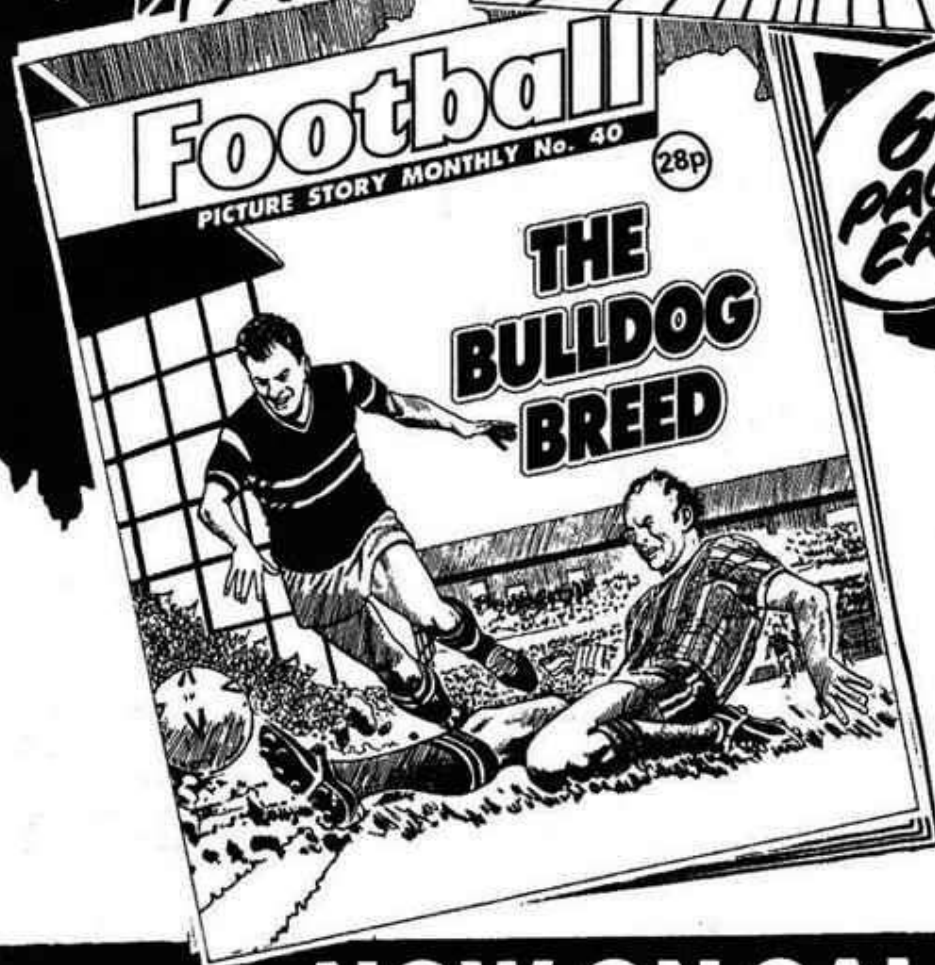
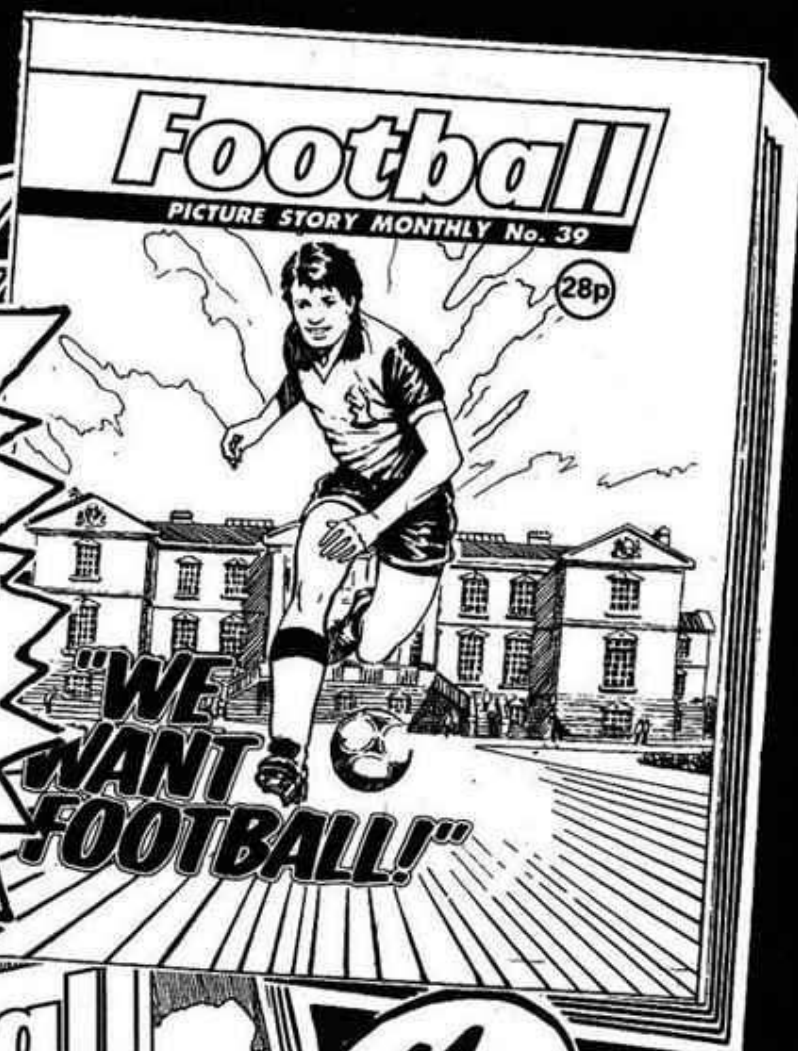


I GIVE UP! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

CATHBAD TRANSFORMED ME INTO RAWHEAD AND SET ME TO TASK HERE WHILE HE STOLE MY SECRETS. NOW, THANKS TO YOU, HE IS DEAD AND I AM FREE ONCE MORE TO USE THE POWER OF MY GREAT RING FOR THE GOOD OF THE EARTH.



**TWO
GREAT
FOOTBALL
PICTURE
STORY
LIBRARIES
EVERY
MONTH!**



**64
PAGES
EACH**

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A FULL COLOUR
MINI PIN-UP...
...AND A PAGE
OF FOOTBALL
FUNNIES...
IN EVERY ISSUE!**

NOW ON SALE

28p

THE RING OF GOFANNON

Through a nightmare of sorcery, Goll and his servant, Cutter follow the ancient maps of Gofannon in search of the legendary Ring. Goll the warrior has to pit his fighting skills against all manner of unworldly creatures to merely survive and discover the truth.

